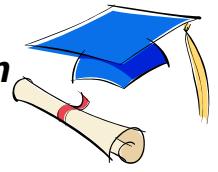


**Louisiana Department of Education**  
**Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program**

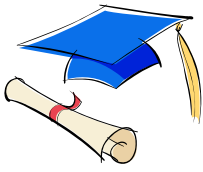


**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**School Year 2010-2011**  
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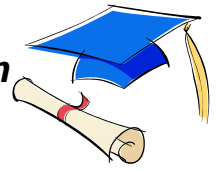
1. What is the purpose of the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence program?  
A: The program provides scholarships to public school students to attend nonpublic schools.
2. Who is eligible for scholarships?  
A: Any student who:
  - resides in Orleans Parish;AND
  - attended grades K – 4 in an academically unacceptable public school in Orleans Parish in SY 09-10, or
  - attended 5<sup>th</sup> grade in an academically unacceptable public school in Orleans Parish in SY 09-10 and will be repeating 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 10-11, or
  - will be entering Kindergarten for the first time in SY 2010-11; or
  - was awarded a scholarship and enrolled in grades K – 4 in a nonpublic school in SY 09-10;AND
  - is a member of a family with a total income not exceeding 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.
3. Where may I obtain a list of 2009-2010 Recovery School District schools or other academically unacceptable schools in Orleans Parish?  
A: A list of schools may be obtained at the Louisiana Department of Education website at [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net) or the application submission site.
4. What are the income guidelines?  
A: The student's family household income must not exceed 250% of the current federal poverty guidelines:

Total Family Household Size (including applicant)	Scholarship Eligibility Gross Income Amounts*			
	Annual	Monthly	Bi-weekly	Weekly
2	\$36,425	\$3,035	\$1,400	\$700
3	\$45,775	\$3,815	\$1,760	\$880
4	\$55,125	\$4,594	\$2,120	\$1,060
5	\$64,475	\$5,373	\$2,480	\$1,240
6	\$73,825	\$6,152	\$2,840	\$1,420
7	\$83,175	\$6,931	\$3,200	\$1,600
8	\$92,525	\$7,710	\$3,558	\$1,779
For each additional family member, add	\$9,350	\$779	\$360	\$180

\*The income amounts above represent the total family household income (for all employed individuals) before any deductions such as income taxes, social security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds.

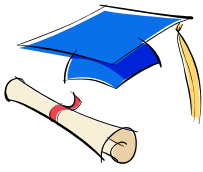


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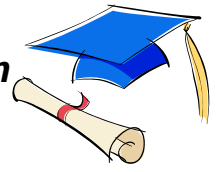


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5. Are all eligible public school students awarded scholarships?  
A: No, students must apply for scholarships.
6. Do all students who apply receive a scholarship?  
A: Maybe not; if the number of applicants exceeds the number of scholarships available, then scholarships will be awarded using a random selection process.
7. How does a student apply for a scholarship?  
A: An application must be completed by the parent/responsible adult and submitted in person along with supporting documentation at the application submission site.
8. Where do families obtain an application?  
A: Families may obtain a copy of the application from the Louisiana Department of Education website at [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net) or at the application submission site. Letters and copies of the application were also sent to parents of students that attended Recovery School District schools or other academically unacceptable schools in Orleans Parish in 2009-2010 school year.
9. What student documentation is required with the application?  
A: Families must provide an original/certified copy of the student's birth certificate and the student's social security card.
10. What documentation must be submitted with the application regarding the parent/responsible adult?  
A: The application requires the parents/responsible adult to include their Louisiana State-issued ID card or driver's license, or other government identification document.
11. Is documentation regarding proof of income only required for the individual parent/responsible adult?  
A: No, proof of total income must be included for each family household member.
12. What documentation must be submitted for proof of total income for each family household member?  
A: A signed and dated copy of each family household member's 2009 federal income tax return shall be supplied as proof of income.
13. If a tax return is not available, is there any other documentation that will be accepted as proof of income?  
A: Yes, the following may be provided in lieu of a tax return:
  - W-2's from all employers for the period ended 12.31.09
  - Unemployment compensation statements as of 12.31.09
  - 1099's and/or statements from banks/other institutions for interest earnings as of 12.31.09
  - Alimony per court decree/agreement
  - Social security benefits statements as of 12.31.09
  - Pension statements as of 12.31.09
  - Assistance participation cards or benefits statements for Federal Assistance Programs (example: LA Purchase Card)

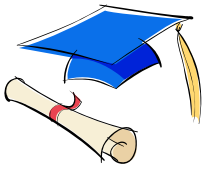


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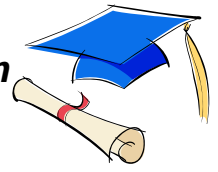


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14. What documentation must be submitted for proof of current residency in Orleans Parish?  
A: Documents such as the following will support current residency:
- Rental/lease agreement or mortgage
  - Official letter from Government Agency (DSS,DHH)
  - Homestead Exemption notice
  - Voter registration card
  - Property tax notice
  - Utility bills (Electricity, gas, telephone, cable/internet, or water/sewage)
15. Whom do families call if they have questions about the application?  
A: Call toll-free at 1-877-453-2721
16. Are all nonpublic schools eligible to enroll scholarship recipients?  
A: No, schools had to apply to participate in the program and be verified as eligible.
17. Where do families get a list of eligible schools that are participating in the program?  
A: A list of eligible schools may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Education website at [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net) or at the application submission site.
18. Do applications have to be completed by the parent/responsible adult?  
A: The parent or persons responsible for the education of the student must complete and sign the application.
19. Does the parent/responsible adult have to submit the application in person?  
A: The application may be delivered by an individual other than the parent/responsible adult. However, that individual must submit all the required identification of the parent/responsible adult and proof of their own identification at the application submission site. That individual will also be required to co-sign the application.
20. Is the student's social security number required on the application?  
A: The child's social security number is required for proper identification and also to ensure an appropriate random selection process.
21. What is the process for awarding scholarships?  
A: After eligible students are identified, a random selection process will be conducted by the Louisiana Department of Education to determine who receives the scholarships. Eligible students who do not receive a scholarship will be placed on a waiting list.
22. When will scholarships be awarded?  
A: Participating schools will be notified no later than April 30, 2010, regarding continuation of awards for students awarded scholarships and enrolled in nonpublic schools in SY 2010-11. Students newly awarded scholarships for SY 10-11 and the applicable schools will be notified in May 2010.

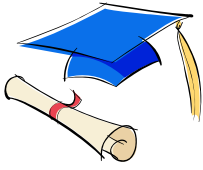


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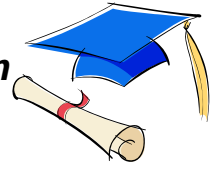


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23. Is there a guarantee that the scholarship program will operate in SY 10-11?  
A: At this time, the Department of Education cannot confirm the participation in the program in 2010-2011 for any student or school. The operation of the program in school year 2010-2011 is contingent upon appropriation of funds by the Legislature. Confirmation of funding will be available once the Legislative Session is complete in June 2010.
24. What is the total value of the scholarship?  
A: Funds will be provided to pay for maximum tuition cost and incidental fees.
25. What is included in the incidental fees?  
A: The incidental fees include any fees charged by the school that are required uniformly for all students. Examples might include registration fees, book fees, and maintenance fees. Lunch fees can only be charged to the program if they are charged to all students.
26. Will the scholarship checks be sent to the student's family or the school he/she attends?  
A: Funds will be paid directly to the school on behalf of the student awarded the scholarship.
27. If a student was not in a public school last year, can he/she still apply?  
A: The only students who are eligible to apply and who do not have to meet the previously attending criteria are those students entering kindergarten for the first time, or those students who are currently attending a nonpublic school as a scholarship recipient for the 2009-2010 school year.
28. If a student attended a nonpublic Pre-K program with a separate scholarship, is he/she eligible to apply for a scholarship?  
A: Yes, as long as the student is entering kindergarten for the first time. Note that these students are **not guaranteed** a scholarship. Each student must meet all program requirements, and be placed through the Department's award process.
29. If a student is enrolled for the first time in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade in an academically unacceptable public school in Orleans Parish for the 2010-2011 school year, is that student eligible to apply?  
A: No, the student must have been enrolled in an academically unacceptable public school during the 2009-2010 school year.
30. If a student was evaluated and received special education services in a public school in the 2009-2010 school year and applies and is awarded a scholarship through this program, is the nonpublic school required to provide special education services to this student during the 2010-11 school year?  
A: No, the nonpublic school may provide services, but it is not required.



**Louisiana Department of Education**  
**Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program**



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31. Will transportation to the nonpublic school be provided?

A: Transportation is not a requirement of this program; however, there may be transportation provided in an agreement between the Orleans Parish School Board and the nonpublic school. Contact your school administrator regarding transportation or go to the following link on the OPSB website for information and select "School Bus Signup (Non-Public)."

<http://www.nops.k12.la.us/pages/transportation>

Additionally, you may contact:

Mr. Leslie Rey  
Purchasing and Ancillary Services Director  
504-304-5645

32. Will Before and After school care be provided?

A: No, before and after school care is not a requirement of this program, nor a service that can be applied to every student.

33. Once a school indicates the number of seats by grade level available for new students, must the school reserve those seats?

A: Yes

34. How long is a school required to reserve committed seats for new scholarship students?

A: Seats must remain committed until September 15<sup>th</sup> provided all students on the waiting list for the school at each grade level have been placed or have declined the scholarship.

35. If a school participated in the Scholarship Program in SY 09-10, must the school retain seats for all enrolled scholarship recipients in SY 10-11?

A: Yes. If funding is provided to continue the program, the school must allow currently enrolled scholarship students to continue at the school in SY 10-11 and beyond.

If the program is not funded, and the student meets the school's eligibility requirements and the parent or guardian assumes responsibility for tuition and fees, the school must allow the student to remain enrolled in SY 10-11 and subsequent years.

36. If a school voluntarily withdraws from the scholarship program, must the school retain seats for all enrolled scholarship recipients in SY 10-11?

A: Yes. If funding is provided to continue the program, the school must allow currently enrolled scholarship students to continue at the school in SY 10-11 and beyond.

If the program is not funded, and the student meets the school's eligibility requirements and the parent or guardian assumes responsibility for tuition and fees, the school must allow the student to remain enrolled in SY 10-11 and subsequent years.